

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 302523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IN

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION MOVEMENT IN INDIA

1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON DECEMBER 4
ECONOMIST ARTICLE "OPPOSITION TO INDIRA WINS FRIENDS AND
INFLUENCE". ARTICLE ASSERTS UNDERGROUND OPPOSITION IN
INDIA HAS BECOME "PROGRESSIVELY BOLDER" AND THAT GOI IS
REACTING BY INCREASING RATHER THAN RELAXING REPRESSION.
ARTICLE CITES INCREASED ARRESTS AND ALLEGED DEATHS OF
PRISONERS UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AS EVIDENCE OF
MORE RECENT REPRESSION.

2. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF ROLE AND
STRENGTH OF RSS IN OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. ARTICLE CLAIMS
THAT RSS REGULARS COMPRISE BULK OF "TENS OF THOUSANDS OF
CADRES... ORGANIZED DOWN TO THE VILLAGE-LEVEL INTO FOUR-
MAN CELLS." SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY WHO CONCEIVABLY PRO-
VIDED SOME OF MATERIAL IN THE ARTICLE SIMILARLY PLAYED
UP POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF RSS CADRES IN RECENT CONVERSA-
TION WITH JOURNALIST HERE. KISSINGER

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